

## ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST CHURCH, CARTERTON

### ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING – 12.05pm on SUNDAY, 15 MAY 2022

Attendance: Ian Baker, Janette Bessent, Rev Preb Stephen Bessent, Lynda Bostock, Stephen Bostock, Margo Brewer, Hannah Cloete, Linda Cox, Michael Cox, David Edgar, Susan Edgar, Mary Grace Fanshaw, Ray Goodson, Barbara Goudal, Louise Griffiths, Carol Hadgraft, Ian Harley, Sharon Harley, Allister Holt, Karen Holt, Carol Howard, Doreen Trezise, Mike Watts, Janet Watts, Chris Welsh, Jeanette Welsh, Liz Wood, Linda Wooloff (notes)

Apologies: Lyndsay Baker, Rev Ian Howard, Gary Long, Janet Sayer, Billie Tweedy

The meeting was chaired by Rev Drew Tweedy, Rector of the Benefice of Black Bourton, Brize Norton & Carterton and Chairman of the Parochial Church Council.

#### Introduction

Rev Tweedy welcomed the attendees to the meeting and commended the Annual Report and Accounts. These had been published in the building, on the website, and had been circulated to those church members who had elected to receive email communications, so there had been a good opportunity for everyone to review the contents.

The Coronavirus pandemic which had swept the nation during 2020 had continued to impact services, finances and general activities during the year. Restrictions had only begun being lifted in the latter part of 2021, allowing a gradual relaxation of restrictions. Rev Tweedy thanked everyone for their patience and understanding as the church leadership team had worked to maintain new ways of reaching out to the community to maintain a pattern of regular worship and pastoral care.

#### Finance Report (Ray Goodson, Treasurer)

Mr Goodson took the meeting through the detail of the financial performance of the church in the year January to December 2021 as set out in the Annual Accounts. The Accounts had been independently examined by Shilton Accounting Services and UNANIMOUSLY approved by the Parochial Church Council, as Trustees.

Weekly cash collections taken during services, when once again permitted, coupled with the reduced number of the congregation attending in person, had made an impact on revenue receipts. The total value of these was only a third of the value in 2020. On a positive note, receipts from voluntary “planned giving” both via standing order and those who had signed up to the Parish Giving Scheme, together with Gift Aid reclaims, had remained consistent. Total income for the year at £85,500 was down on the previous year whilst outgoings had increased overall to £128,500.

The PCC had approved the transfer money from the investment funds to cover some of this expenditure during the year to keep up with long-term maintenance on the building. These included repairs to the roof and car park, the installation of window blinds and remedial work resulting from the annual electrical inspection. However, we as a church were still able to donate around £10,000 to various Mission Giving and local causes, representing 12% of our actual income.

Mr Goodson explained that the church only has one main account at the bank and all receipts and payments go through that account. The full year costs of employing our Children & Families Worker were reported in these results for the first time. These costs are covered by money in the investment fund earmarked for Mission and Outreach. A Fabric account holds a contingency reserve. When funding is needed to cover a particular expenditure such as for fabric or employee costs, money is transferred into the main account.

In summary, although at year-end the main account showed a negative balance of £42,512 (vs a credit of £86,488 in 2020), we have been very grateful that the money invested from the Keene legacy which kept us in

credit, and our total assets at the end of the year had increased by just over £55,000 from last year. The overall state of the church finances therefore remains healthy.

Ray thanked the valuable contribution made by Mrs Alison Ford, acting as Gift-Aid Reclaim officer, and the support he had received from Shilton Accounting Services. Rev Tweedy thanked Mr Goodson for his diligence and hard work throughout the year in looking after the church's financial affairs.

#### Appointment of an Independent Examiner

The meeting unanimously approved the appointment of Shilton Accounting Services as Independent Examiner for the 2022 Annual Accounts.

#### Children & Families Worker Report

Mr Gary Long had been unable to attend the meeting but had provided a report of the initiatives he had been developing and areas where he was reaching out to families and the local schools. Rev Tweedy summarised these for the benefit of the meeting. (Full details can be found in the presentation slides accompanying these minutes.) Mr Long was involved in projects throughout the Benefice and the results were extremely encouraging. His monthly Informal Worship service was proving extremely popular and congregation numbers continue to increase. Rev Tweedy commended Mr Long's hard work and enthusiasm. He encouraged continuing prayer to support Mr Long and his team of helpers going forward.

The upcoming additions to the Ministry Team of Chris Welsh (Youth Group trainee) and Katie van Santen (our new curate joining in July) would provide further support and resource in this area.

#### Electoral Roll

At the start of the year, the Electoral Roll stood at 75 members. Two new members joined the Roll during 2021, but four had left. The current Roll number is now 73. The Roll is now open again to new members.

#### Fabric Report

As mentioned above under Finance, various projects had been undertaken during the year, as well as routine maintenance. Full details can be found in the presentation slides accompanying these minutes.

Rev Tweedy thanked Mr Mike Cox and Mr Allister Holt in particular for taking overall responsibility for organising this work to keep the building and its users safe and secure, especially during the restrictions of Covid. He also thanked the Technical team, led by Mr Ian Harley, who had provided expertise and support which have allowed us to broadcast services so professionally during the Coronavirus epidemic and beyond. A valuable outcome has been the church's ability to reach out "virtually" to people who have not been able to attend services in person.

#### Election of Officers

Mr Roy Morris who had represented the church at Witney Deanery Synod for the past 18 months, had resigned. Mrs Carol Howard stepped up to fill one of the vacancies, and was UNANIMOUSLY voted in. Her term will continue until 2023 when all Deanery Synod representatives are required to stand down and fresh elections are held in the Diocese. Mrs Howard becomes an ex officio member of the PCC. One vacancy remained and Rev Tweedy invited any member of the electoral roll to consider stepping forward.

Mr Andrew Monkhouse, Mrs Doreen Trezise and Mrs Linda Wooloff had completed their three-year term as members of the Parochial Church Council. Mrs Wooloff had agreed to stand for re-election. A nomination had been received from Mrs Elizabeth Wood, and both were UNANIMOUSLY elected. Two vacancies remain – one for a three-year term, the other for a two-year term.

The appointment of officers for leadership roles and committee members would be made at the first meeting of the new Parochial Church Council immediately following this meeting.

### Safeguarding

Rev Tweedy thanked Mrs Jeanette Welsh for continuing the lead the area of Safeguarding. She had recently completed the newly introduced Action Plan and Dashboard to ensure the church remained compliant with Diocesan guidelines.

### Tribute

The main body of the meeting concluded with Rev Tweedy paying tribute to Mrs Doreen Trezise who has stood down from the PCC. As a regular member of the congregation for more than forty years, Mrs Trezise has taken active roles in church leadership over many years, as well as contributing her expertise in areas of pastoral care, as a member of the catering team and other ways too many to mention but much appreciated. The meeting gave Mrs Trezise a standing ovation when presented with a gift from the church family.

### Questions Raised during the Meeting

A written question from Mr Long about how his remuneration costs were recorded within the accounts, without affecting the overall picture, had been answered separately by Mr Goodson. Mr Goodson reminded the meeting that church accounting was carried out in a slightly different way from normal accounting methods with its credit/debit balance sheet procedure. (See earlier comments under Finance above.)

There being no further issues to discuss, and no questions raised, Rev Tweedy closed the meeting at 12.45pm.

Presentation slides used during this meeting are available on the website.